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Monterey, California. Naval Postgraduate School



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The
Maritime
Domain
Protection Task
Force
(MDP-TF)

"To dissuade
and defeat
threats
as early
and as far from
U.S. borders as
possible."



SITREP

March 2004
Volume 2

Naval
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Construction

NPS to Host Threat and Vulnerability Assessment Symposium

Maritime domain awareness and protection are issues of vital importance to our nation and our neighbors. What is potentially vulnerable? Everything! What is potentially a threat? Everything!

Due to the sheer size and scope of this issue, comprehensive threat and vulnerability assessments are not currently available. Where do we start? What do we include? Where do we focus our assets to minimize threats and protect our people, property, and literally, our way of life?

In an effort to address these concerns, NPS will host a Threat and Vulnerability Assessment Symposium from 15-17 June 2004 in Monterey, California. Organized as a symposium vice a conference, this event is designed to facilitate an exchange of ideas on where we are regarding vulnerability and threat assessment, both in forward areas and at home.

To identify weaknesses, discern the intensity of potential dangers, and help focus protection and forward action, it is essential to conduct thorough vulnerability and threat assessments. It is hoped that the MDP-TF symposium will contribute to this process and serve as a foundation for future efforts.

Symposium General Concept

The symposium will be a three day meeting featuring presentations, panel discussions, and possibly, scenario-driven interactive vignettes. Attendance will be limited to approximately fifty people to ensure that a core group of experts, who can both participate and interact, is assembled. The MDP-TF will contact specific commands regarding participation and an official message will be sent announcing the symposium. Please contact the Vulnerability Assessment Team POC, CAPT Steven Ashby, at sbashby@nps.navy.mil, if your command would like to take part in this event.

The symposium will focus on two basic sub-themes: to identify current near-term threats and to identify key vulnerabilities. Participants will be asked to help identify

what is missing, what is not being addressed, and where to effectively focus limited resources. A feedback questionnaire may be used to assist in this area. A recent MTAC visit to NPS helped address the challenges we are all facing. In coordinating and partnering with MTAC and you, the MDP-TF can act as a neutral academic conduit, delivering an unbiased message to decision makers and war fighters to help focus resources where they may have more optimal impact and achieve a greater good.

After the Symposium, Then What?

Will the symposium answer all threat and vulnerability assessment questions? No, but it can provide the start of an iterative process to help bind together thoughts, ideas, and concepts that exist throughout various intelligence and operational communities, military commands, other government organizations, and private enterprise.

Results of the symposium will provide input for both systems engineering and maritime awareness working groups. Presentations, discussions, vignettes, panels, and any questionnaires that are part

of the symposium will be captured, packaged, and delivered to participating agencies and MDP stakeholders as an initial product evidencing the great work that is taking place literally throughout the world. Recent SSCI testimony by key intelligence leaders outlined our challenges and this symposium will help identify methods to meet those challenges.

You are reading this newsletter because you are one of many trying to make a difference in meeting the MDP-TF focus to dissuade, deter, pre-empt, interdict, or defeat threats and aggression as early and as far from U.S. borders as possible. We plan to start small but strong in this effort. Please mark the MDP-TF Threat and Vulnerability Assessment Symposium from 15-17 June 2004 on your calendar.

We look forward to working with you now and in the future.



Departing San Diego, CA



VBSS Team

UPCOMING EVENTS

MARCH 2004

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

24-25 March NORTHCOM VISIT
2 April SOCOM VISIT

APRIL 2004

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fri	Sat
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4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	